

*Outgoing*  
~~Internal~~  
 M/027/0007  
 Peter Brinton <peterbrinton@utah.gov>

## Drum mine reclamation concerns

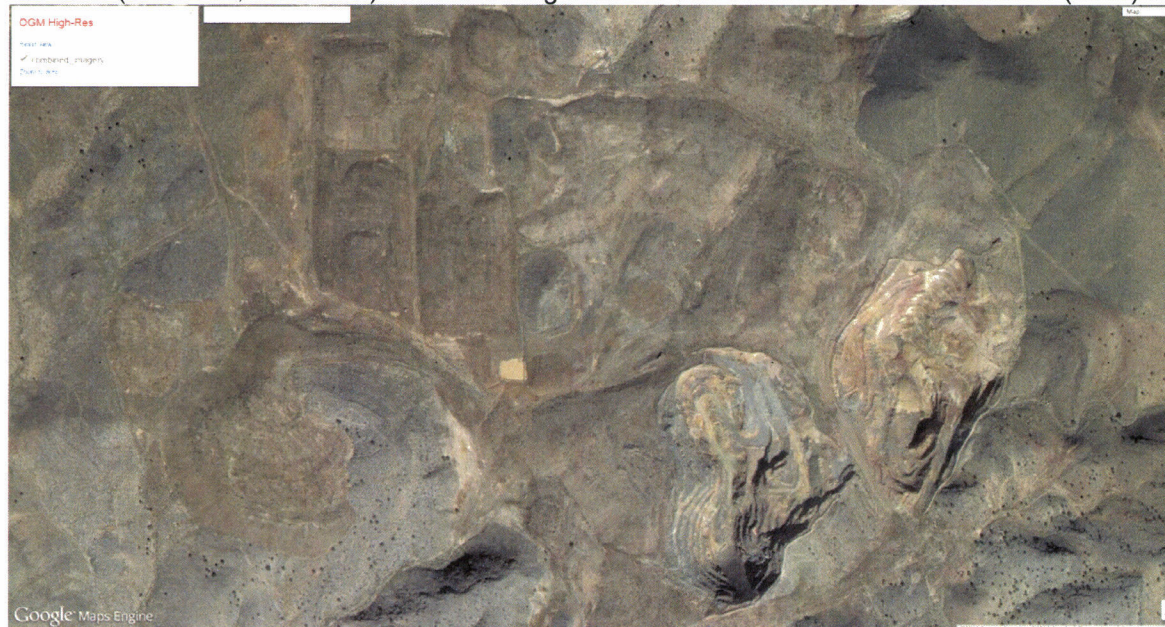
1 message

**Peter Brinton** <peterbrinton@utah.gov>  
 To: Joelle McCarthy <jmccarth@blm.gov>  
 Cc: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Tue, May 5, 2015 at 11:24 AM

Hi Joelle, Here are a few more details:

The Drum mine in the Drum mountains has been mostly reclaimed for a number of years now. It was reclaimed by the operator in cooperation between the BLM and the State of Utah in a bankruptcy situation, where the Division (and BLM, I assume) were directing much of the field work. Here's a recent (2013) aerial of the site.



I inspected the mine a month or so ago, and there are a couple issues of note that BLM should be aware of. Please see the attached photos as well.

- 1) There are two adits at or near the south end of one of the two pits (the southwest pit). Records show that one adit was backfilled by pushing material from the crest of the pit highwall. This adit in the south wall has since opened back up by caving through the material pushed on top of it. The other adit appears to have an opening at the top of the mostly-closed (backfilled) portal, but I didn't check up close. Paul Baker and I thought it would be good to make you aware due to potential public safety issues.
- 2) The site is mostly well vegetated (except the pits, which do have some brush growing), but overgrazing appears to be increasing erosion on most of the reclaimed dump or heap leach slopes, and some rilling is developing. The sheep must really like the old solution pond, which catches runoff and sediment from much of the leach pad and dump area. I don't know what can or should be done relating to overgrazing, but we thought you would want to be aware.
- 3) There is a fence around parts of the site, but it is either down or non-existent in many parts, leaving the site open to access from the public and sheep.
- 4) The safety berm around the pits look intact, but a failure in the pit will probably take out part of a berm around the southwest pit at some point.

We know you have a lot on your plate, but thought you should be made aware of this. Let me know if you have

any questions.

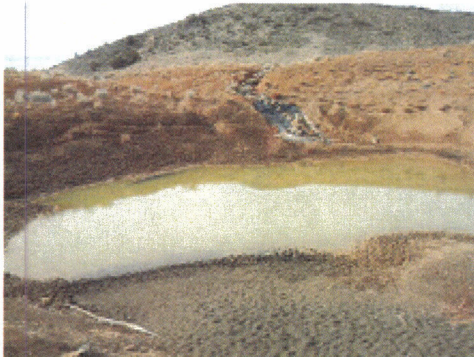
Peter

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Peter Brinton  
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Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
Office Phone: [801-538-5258](tel:801-538-5258)  
Days: M - Th, Every Other Friday  
Hours: 7:30am - 5:00pm

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**6 attachments**



**DSCN9012.JPG**  
1874K



**DSCN9029.JPG**  
2041K



**DSCN9005.JPG**  
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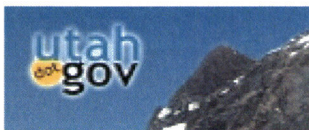
**DSCN9046.JPG**  
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**DSCN9044.JPG**  
2042K



**DSCN9042.JPG**  
1914K



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To: Joelle McCarthy <jmccarth@blm.gov>  
Cc: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Tue, May 5, 2015 at 11:27 AM

Here's the location of the down fence on the north.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**DSCN9094.JPG**  
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